

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 16, 2003  
MAG Offices  
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr Queen Creek, Chairman	Mayor John Keegan, Peoria
* Mayor Joan Shafer Surprise, Vice Chairman	Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa	* Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix
	Mayor Woody Thomas, Litchfield Park

\* Not present

# Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:14 p.m.

Mayor Thomas moved to approve consent agenda items #2 Approval of the May 19, 2003 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and #3 Federal Fiscal Year 2003 MAG Federal Funds Interim Closeout and Amendment/Adjustments to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2003 and FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Programs and Annual Budgets. Mayor Keegan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of the May 19, 2003 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Committee, by consent, approved the minutes of the May 19, 2003 meeting.

3. Federal Fiscal Year 2003 MAG Federal Funds Interim Closeout and Amendment/Adjustments to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and FY 2003 and FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Programs and Annual Budgets

The Executive Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the interim closeout of Federal FY 2003, as recommended by the Transportation Review Committee at their May 29, 2003, meeting as follows: (1) Defer the projects listed in Table One; (2) Add new projects, or advance from a future year, or allocate additional funds to, the projects listed in Table Two; (3) Amend the FY 2003 and FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Programs and Annual Budgets to include the additional funds for the Bicycle Education Workshop, the Pedestrian Design Program, the Williams Gateway Airport Freeway - Corridor Study and the Evaluation of ITS Applications for Elderly Mobility as shown in Table Three; and (4) Authorize an amendment/

administrative adjustment to the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program to include the necessary projects in FY 2003.

In this phase of the closeout process, approximately \$13.4 million is available for the close out. Approximately \$29.6 million in project requests have been received for the funds available. On May 29, 2003, the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) recommended approval of the deferral of the 15 projects requested and recommended 18 projects to utilize the majority of the funds available. Further action is expected next month on contingency projects to utilize any further funds that might become available during the final close out phase. Due to the Bicycle Education Workshop, the Pedestrian Design Program, the Williams Gateway Airport Freeway - Corridor Study and the Evaluation of ITS Applications for Elderly Mobility affecting the Unified Planning Work Program, a recommendation on these issues is requested.

#### 4. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Dennis Smith stated that the June 18, 2003 Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meeting is a very important meeting. He reported that July 16, 2003 is the target date for a draft Plan. Mr. Smith noted that there still needs to be an agreement on projects and phasing timing. He added that the business community has been cooperating with this process and providing some valuable insight. Mr. Smith then asked Eric Anderson to update the Committee on the TPC's progress.

Eric Anderson provided an update on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan that is being developed by the Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. Anderson stated that three modeling scenarios were presented to the TPC at their May meeting. He explained that the hybrid scenario phase has begun that will incorporate the best performing freeways, transit, and major streets. He noted that the plan is over programmed by \$1.3 billion out of a total of \$15 billion. Mr. Anderson stated that this is an important phase of the project, where discussions and tradeoffs will occur to give us the best transportation plan possible. He stated that a presentation on a version of the hybrid scenario will be given at the June 18 TPC meeting, with guidance requested from the TPC on how to proceed. Mr. Anderson stated that a draft hybrid will be done in July, which will be sent out for another round of reviews by agencies. Chairman Feldman-Kerr thanked Mr. Anderson for his presentation.

Mr. Smith noted that the business coalition is pushing for the tax to be 100 percent capital because they believe that operations is driving the tax and the tax is limited to 20 years. Mayor Manross stated that she hopes that there is a strong message that it is unrealistic to dedicate every dollar to capital. She noted that the support of the cities is needed and that her citizens will ask about operation. Mayor Manross stated that it is not in anyone's best interest if the tax fails.

Mr. Anderson updated the committee on polling and research information. He noted that there have been many surveys where the transit component is strongly supported. He noted that MAG has held several public input opportunities, including five workshops, MAG at the Mall, and the SR 51 opening.

Mayor Thomas stated that he believes that the half cent tax lends itself to capital only since it is a 20 year tax. He also noted that the efficiency of the automobile has a big impact on gas tax. Mayor Manross noted that there are examples all over the country that shows both capital and operations work. She stated that she does not see the Legislature supporting a tax increase. Mayor Keegan stated his concern is if we build a system, we need to maintain that system. He noted, however, that capital and operations need to be kept separate. Mayor Hawker stated that there needs to be some middle ground and that a local match might be sellable. He noted that local governments would then be accountable for expenditures. Mayor Hawker stated that if a local government does not want to make local match, then the route would not be included. Mayor Manross responded that some communities have no more freeways going through their jurisdiction. She noted that there has to be a motivation for communities to participate and believes that transit needs to be a component.

Mr. Smith stated that one idea might be to fund 100 percent of operations to start, then it would stair step to zero. The disadvantage is that we are asking for a second vote by cities. Mayor Hawker asked how that was different than what we are asking for in 20 years? Mr. Smith noted that it shifts the responsibility to local jurisdictions as opposed to regional. He stated that this will be a tough issue. Mayor Thomas asked when this item will be brought to the Regional Council. Mr. Smith stated that the TPC should finalize this in September and the Regional Council should see this on the October agenda.

5. Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Boundary

Lindy Bauer stated that by July 15, 2003, the Governor is required to recommend nonattainment area boundaries for the eight-hour ozone standard. She noted that if no boundary is recommended, the Environmental Protection Agency will use the Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes all of Maricopa County and Pinal County. Ms. Bauer stated that under the Clean Air Act, the boundary must include all areas that do not meet or contribute to a nearby area that does not meet the standards. She explained that the purpose is to protect public health. Ms. Bauer stated that once the boundary is set, it would be difficult to make the boundary smaller, although it can be made larger at any time. She distributed an Environmental Data map for Phoenix-Mesa MSA.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Bauer to address why monitors in remote areas have violations, such as Humboldt Mountain (#10). Ms. Bauer stated that wind flow patterns carry emissions to the northeast. In addition, areas like Humboldt Mountain have a lot of trees and plants that produce isoprenes, which contribute to the violations. Ms. Bauer stated that the boundary outlined on the map makes the most sense based upon an analysis of 11 factors identified by EPA. She noted that most of the growth is staying in this area through 2020. Ms. Bauer explained that the blue line is the transportation modeling area. She stated that the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) is working on a resolution to support MAG boundary option.

Ms. Bauer explained that the Federal government adopted other standards, for light duty vehicles, heavy duty vehicles and low sulfur fuels, which will reduce emissions significantly

in the near future. She also addressed some concerns regarding Arizona State University and their modeling data. Mr. Smith agreed that there are some large concerns about the ASU information. Mayor Keegan asked what future date was used. Ms. Bauer stated that ASU used 2018 and MAG used 2020. She also reported that the ozone standards would need to be attained in five years if the region is classified under Subpart 1 of the Clean Air Act. Ms. Bauer noted that if there are more violations outside of the area, the boundary option would need to be larger.

Ms. Bauer stated that on May 8 and 27, 2003, the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) reviewed the initial analysis prepared by MAG staff. She stated that the recommendation from ADEQ is due June 17, 2003. The AQTAC may make a recommendation at their meeting on June 19, 2003. Ms. Bauer stated that the Regional Council may take action on this recommendation at their June 25, 2003 meeting, followed by the Governor's recommendation on July 15, 2003 and finalization by EPA April 15, 2004.

Chairman Feldman-Kerr thanked Ms. Bauer for her presentation.

6. Homeless Continuum of Care Update

Debbra Determan explained that the purpose of this item is to provide information and seek comments on the Continuum of Care Process for 2003. She explained that on December 8, 1999, the Regional Council approved MAG becoming the responsible entity for a year round homeless planning process that includes submittal of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Stuart B. McKinney Continuum of Care consolidated applications for Maricopa County. Ms. Determan stated that 44 applications were received this year. Of those 44 applications, there were only two new applicants. She noted that the last several years the region received anywhere from \$10 to \$12 million annually. This year, the Continuum of Care Steering Committee will make recommendations to provide up to \$15 million.

Ms. Determan stated that the review and ranking process is currently in process through a committee formed by the Valley of the Sun United Way. She explained that the timeline and the MAG committee meetings do not coincide. We currently have the names of the organizations applying for HUD funds and the requested dollar amount, but the comprehensive review and ranking has just begun. Mr. Smith noted that a few years ago, this process used to be with the City of Phoenix. Mayor Keegan asked a question regarding Reference No. 16 on the application listing. He asked why the project sponsor was the City of Phoenix when the location was listed as Peoria and the project was for transitional housing in El Mirage and Surprise. Ms. Determan stated that she will check on that and get back to the Committee. Mayor Hawker stated that it is not clear what these numbers mean and how the dollars are being spent. Ms. Determan commented that the review and ranking committee will make a comprehensive evaluation of the proposals and with the assistance of the consultant, determine how to best leverage funds and pull down HUD funds for the region. Mr. Smith stated that additional information can be provided regarding the ranking and review outcome. Mayor Hawker stated that he can only acknowledge that 44 applications have been submitted. Ms. Determan stated that the agenda item is for information, discussion and comment on the process

this year. Mayor Thomas asked how someone could find out about this available money. Ms. Determan stated that information could be found on the Website, through the Continuum of Care Committee, and by being put on a mailing list. She suggested that it might be wise for MAG to send this information to each community in the future. Chairman Feldman-Kerr asked if the Executive Committee and Regional Council could get involved earlier in the process. Ms. Determan stated that HUD sets the time frame, which is usually 60 to 90 days, but staff will make every effort to provide information in a timely fashion to allow for more input. Mr. Smith stated that we will look at the big picture and the entire process to see if anything can be done regarding the time frame.

7. Regional Council's Annual Accomplishments

Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated the first Regional Council Annual Accomplishments brochure is at everyone's place. This report has been changed to focus the Regional Council's accomplishment during the past year. Kelly Taft stated that the report is for review and comments, and will be presented to the Regional Council at the June 25, 2003 meeting. Mayor Manross stated that the report is very readable. Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that it looks excellent. Mayor Thomas suggested that we might want to highlight the Website.

Chairman Feldman-Kerr stated that the Town Hall Report just arrived in the mail to the participants of the event. She asked that the committee keep an ear open for any feedback from their community.

Blue Crowley asked about the public comment process at Executive Committee and commented that he believes that the region needs synchronized systems that includes lights, lagging left turns and turning lanes.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary